Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 M-03 SNM-02 BNDD-01 TRSE-00

JUSE-01 IO-03 BAL-01 PER-01 ABF-01 RSC-01 /035 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ INS: JHHAWES: NM

3/8/73, EXT 22351

APPROVED BY NEA: RPDAVIES

NEA/ INS: DTSCHNEIDER

NEA/ RA: TGRANT NEA/ EX: EMOOT

NEA INTERAGENCY NARCOTICS COMMITTEE

M/ MS: GMAYS

----- 015710

R 092326 Z MAR 73 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI USMISSION GENEVA

SECRETSTATE 044183

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: SNAR, IN

SUBJ: UPDATING NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTION PROGRAM

REF: NEW DELHI 1601

- 1. INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FOR NEA REGION HAS REVIEWED UPDATED NARCOTICS CONTROL PLAN SUBMITTED REFTEL AND CONCURS IN GENERAL APPROACH SUGGESTED BY EMBASSY. SPECIFIC COMMENTS FOLLOW:
- 2. STAFFING: (A) WITH REGARD TO TDY ASSIGNMENT OF A SECOND BNDD ATTACHE FOR THE REMAINDER OF FY 73, BNDD HAS ARRANGED WITH ITS REGIONAL OFFICE TO MAKE AN AGENT AVAILABLE ON CALL WHEN NEEDED. WE BELIEVE THIS ARRANGEMENT, WHICH WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE CONSIDERED AS AN ADDITION TO THE EMBASSY STAFF, SHOULD BE SATISFACTORY; (B) WITH REGARD TO SECRET

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ASSIGNMENT OF A SECOND FULL- TIME BNDD AGENT IN FY 74, COMMITTEE HAS ENDORSED REQUEST AND BNDD BELIEVES IT COULD FILL POSITION IF APPROVED.

NEW POSITION WOULD REQUIRE

OPRED COMMITTEE CLEARANCE. ADDITIONAL BNDD AGENT WOULD NOT RPT NOT REQUIRE OFFSETTING REDUCTION ELSEWHERE IN MISSION UNDER OPRED. SINCE TOTAL SIZE OF US MISSION IN INDIA HAS BEEN DECLINING RAPIDLY AND GOI PRESUMABLY WATCHING CLOSELY FOR SIGNS US INTENTIONS ON CONTENT OF NEW RELATIONSHIP, REQUEST AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT AND CONFIRMATION THAT ASSIGNMENT OF SECOND ATTACHE WOULD BE POLITICALLY DESIRABLE AND WOULD NOT OVERBURDEN PRESENT EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOI OFFICIALS.

- 3. TRAINING: COMMITTEE RECOGNIZES THAT REFTEL TRAINING PROJECTIONS ARE BASED ON POSSIBILITY THAT PAST GOI NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS US TRAINING MAY CHANGE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR EMBASSY TO PUSH GOI ON THIS POINT, SINCE RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT TRAINING PRESUMABLY BROADLY POLITICAL AND RELATED TO OVERALL QUESTION OF PAST ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP. HOWEVER, AS OPPORTUNITIES ARISE EMBASSY MAY IN ITS DISCRETION WISH TO SOUND OUT APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS INFORMALLY ON GOI ATTITUDE. IN ANY EVENT, NOT POSSIBLE SCHEDULE PROPOSED TWO-WEEK BNDD TRAINING FOR CBI OFFICIAL DURING REMAINDER FY 73. POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE IS SIXTEEN-WEEK INTERNATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY COURSE IN NARCOTICS MANAGEMENT OPENING JUNE 25, IF GOI CHANGES ATTITUDE ON TRAINING.
- 4. SEPTEL WILL DEAL WITH VISIT OF US CUSTOMS TEAM NOW PLANNED EARLY APRIL (NEW DELHI 2579). COMMITTEE ENCOURAGED BY INDIAN WILLINGNESS DISCUSS WIDE RANGE OF CUSTOMS QUESTIONS AND HOPES VISIT WILL SUGGEST NEW AVENUES FOR EFFECTIVE COOPERATION IN FIELD OF MUTUAL CONCERN.
- 5. BNDD PREPARING ESTIMATES ON COST OF REQUESTED BOOKS AND FILMS, WHICH WILL BE SUBJECT SEPTEL.
- 6. COMMITTEE AGREES WITH EMBASSY ASSESSMENT THAT AT POLITICAL LEVEL GOI DOES NOT YET VIEW NARCOTICS AS A PRIORITY PROBLEM, EITHER INTERNALLY OR INTERNATIONALLY, DESPITE AWARENESS AND COOPERATION ON PART OF WORKING LEVEL SECRET

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OFFICIALS. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, SIGNS THAT SOME SENIOR

OFFICIALS MAY BE BECOMING CONCERNED ABOUT EFFECT ON INDIA'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE SHOULD ITS NARCOTICS CONTROL SYSTEM BE SHOWN TO BE INADEQUATE AS A RESULT OF INCREASED INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING. BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT EMBASSY SHOULD CONSIDER AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ITS STRATEGY AN EFFORT TO ACCELERATE THIS GROWTH IN HIGH LEVEL GOI CONCERN AND TO EXTEND IT INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE TO THE POLITICAL LEVEL. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE NEW REALISTIC RELATIONSHIP WE HOPE TO ESTABLISH WITH THE GOI FOR AMBASSADOR TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN TO GOI LEADERS. COMMITTEE AGREES WITH REFTEL ASSESSMENT THAT GOI LIKELY TO REACT NEGATIVELY TO PERCEIVED PRESSURE FOR MORE ACTIVE US ROLE AND ASSUME SAME WOULD APPLY TO BLATANT US CAMPAIGN FOR CHANGE IN GOI ATTITUDE. HOWEVER, BELIEVE ROOM EXISTS FOR INCREASE IN DISCRETE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENT AND SUGGESTIONS. ROGERS

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

^{***} Current Classification *** SECRET

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